Ban on polythene bags

†2438. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has worked on any concrete plan to ban polythene bags; if so, by when the ban would be implemented;

(b) whether Government has worked on any plan to decompose plastic waste as it does not decompose even in 100 years;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for collection and disposal of wastes and also for disposal of industrial and organic wastes keeping in view the protection of environment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The manufacture and use of polythene bags and recycling of plastic wastes are regulated under the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (as amended in 2003). As per these rules, manufacture, sale and use of carry bags less than 20 micron in thickness and less than 8 x12 inches in size are prohibited. Some States have prescribed more stringent norms for thickness of polythene bags and have banned their use in public/tourist places.

The Government has also notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. Municipal Authorities are responsible for implementation of the provisions of these rules pertaining to collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes including plastic wastes.

The collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of hazardous waste are regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. As per these rules, hazardous waste is to be disposed of by the industry either on its own or in a Common Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF).

Dumping ground for e-waste

2439.DR. RAM PRAKASH:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that India is turning into a dumping ground for e-waste of developed nations;

(b) whether the Ministry intends to adopt the extended procedure responsibility for the disposal of e-waste in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether the major stake holders have been consulted in this regard; and

(e) if so, their views and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous waste which includes e-waste. As per these Rules, only the actual users who are having environmentally sound recycling facilities are granted registration by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the purpose of recycling such waste. Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste have been formulated and published after consultation with the major stakeholders. These Guidelines include a reference to the concept of the Extended Producers Responsibility.

Delay in development projects due to environmental clearance

2440. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many developmental projects are being delayed due to unnecessary delay by the Ministry; and

(b) the details of time bound programme for clearance of projects by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Environmental Impact assessment Notification of September 2006 provides a time limit of 60 days for conveying Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for the appraisal and conveying the decision.

Survey of flora and fauna

†2441. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to identify and preserve flora and fauna on the verge of extinction in the country;

(b) if so, the details of identified flora and fauna;

(c) whether it is a fact that Salamanders are now on the verge of extinction and they are found only in few hilly areas like Darjeeling and North-East; and

(d) if so, whether Government is taking.concrete steps to preserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No systematic country-wide survey has been conducted to identify flora and fauna which are on the verge of extinction. The Zoological Survey of India has so far

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